

REMARKS

The applicant appreciates the Office's patience with regards to the prosecution of this case thus far. The applicant firmly asserts that the instant application includes several novel features that have not been described suggested or taught in the cited references. However, to facilitate the Office's ease in further examination of this case, the applicant has greatly reduced the number of claims being presented and focus on just one aspect of the disclosed invention. The applicant reserves the right to present additional claims directed towards other aspects of the disclosed invention either in a later response or through the filing of a continuation application.

As it stands, the Office has presented U.S. Patent Numbers 6,345,256 to Milsted and 6,643,669 to Novak et al. in support of its rejections to date. These references have been carefully reviewed and the applicant respectfully asserts that the claims as present presented are not described, suggested or taught in the cited references, nor would it have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the cited references to obtain the invention as presently claimed.

In claim 1, the applicant wishes to focus the examiner on the ability of a user to access licensed media assets. Milsted focuses on a central distribution system that allows users to access content in accordance with licenses that are approved or authorized through encryption technology. In every case, the content is accessed from the central distribution system based on the entry of a key that "unlocks" the access to the content. However, the available content is under the control of content providers that provision the central distribution system. Claim 1 recites a portal that maintains a virtual library of media assets that can include one or more media assets that are contained in a master library stored on the portal. The media assets in this virtual library can be

accessed by a user using a media playback device. In addition, claim 1 recites the ability of a user to load a licensed media asset onto a first media player device – the new licensed media asset. The portal can then incorporate the “new licensed media asset” into the virtual library. The user is then able to use a second media player device to access the licensed media assets in the virtual library which now grants access not only to the media assets stored on the portal, but also to the new media asset that is stored on the first media player device.

Because of the structure and mechanisms that are presented in Milsted regarding anti-piracy and security, this capability could not be included into the system described therein. Furthermore, this capability could not be achieved by combining the Milsted reference with the Novak et al. reference. Novak et al. simply discloses a synchronization process between a client database and a server. As previously stated, the structure and mechanisms presented in Milsted would preclude combining such a capability and still provide the ability to access the new media asset that is stored on the first media player device.

Similarly, claim 30 recites the same capabilities as claim 1, with the additional capability that the first media player device that houses the new license media asset does not necessarily have to be a media player device that is owned or controlled by the user associated with the virtual private library.

Again, the applicant respectfully requests the Office to carefully review these claims. The applicant submits that these claims are in condition for allowance and requests the Office to take such necessary action to grant a United States Patent for the presented claims. In addition, the applicant requests a telephonic interview with the examiner assigned to this case prior to the issuance of another office action if such action is anticipated. The applicant's attorney will follow

up the submission of this response with a telephone call to the examiner to schedule such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,



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